

Message Text

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ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-05 IO-10 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-04 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05

OES-03 OMB-01 SS-15 SP-02 L-02 AID-05 IGA-01 MED-02

HEW-02 PA-01 PRS-01 NEA-06 PC-01 /083 W

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R 211500Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8771

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE OUAGADOUGOU 2415

FOR SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, UV

SUBJECT: MISSION ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF DRUG PROGRAM

REF: STATE 233134

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED REFTEL,
I HAVE REVIEWED THE ACTIVITIES OF THIS MISSION IN
SUPPORT OF THE DRUG PROGRAM AND WISH TO MAKE THE
FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS:

A. THE EMBASSY MAINTAINS REGULAR CONTACT WITH GOUV
AUTHORITIES WITH RESPONSIBILITY IN THIS AREA OF CON-
CERN. UPPER VOLTA IS VERY SENSITIVE TO THE PROBLEM OF
DRUGS AND ALTHOUGH THERE HAS BEEN NO WIDESPREAD USE OF
DRUGS IN THE COUNTRY TO DATE, THE GOUV HAS INITIATED
SUFFICIENT CONTROLS TO IMPEDE THE DEVELOPMENT OF A
PROBLEM.

B. MAIN USERS OF DRUGS IN UPPER VOLTA ARE YOUNG,
NON-VOLTANS WHO HAVE COME FROM THE COASTAL AREAS IN

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ADDITION TO YOUNG "EUROPEAN" EXPATRIATES. USE AMONG

VOLTANS IS RELEATIVELY LIMITED. THE MAIN PURVEYORS OF DRUGS HAVE BEEN GHANAIAAN AND NIGERIAN TRADERS.

C. MAIN CENTERS OF USE ARE OUAGADOUGOU WHERE THERE IS THE UNIVERSITY STUDENT GROUP AND BOBO-DOULASSO WHICH IS ALSO A LARGE URBAN CENTER. ON THE OTHER HAND, MOST OF THE YOUNG VOLTANS FIND THE COST OF NARCOTICS PROHIBITIVE SINCE THEY HAVE VERY LITTLE POCKET MONEY AND FEW SOURCES FOR EARNING IT.

D. WHILE UPPER VOLTA HAS NO ANTI-NARCOTICS LAW PER SE, DRUGS INCLUDING MARIHUANA AND HASHISH ARE INCLUDED ON A LIST OF PROHIBITED ITEMS, POSSESSION OF WHICH IS PUNISHABLE BY IMPRISONMENT FOR VOLANS AND EXPLUSION FROM UPPER VOLTA FOR NON-VOLTANS. CUSTOMS OFFICIALS ARE ALSO SENSITIVE TO THE POSSIBILITY OF AN INFLOW OF DRUGS ACROSS VOLTAN BORDERS.

2. WITH REGARD TO THE OFFICIAL AMERICAN FAMILY, THE FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS MAY BE OF INTEREST:

A. NEW MEMBERS OF THE MISSION STAFF ARE BRIEFED ON ARRIVAL ABOUT THE USE OF DRUGS AND THE POSITION OF THE MISSION REGARDING THEIR USE.

B. PROCEDURES HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED WITH THE PEACE CORPS FOR THE AMBASSADOR OR DCM TO BRIEF EACH NEW GROUP OF VOLUNTEERS: A PART OF THIS BRIEFING IS DEVOTED TO THE PROHIBITION OF NARCOTICS.

C. THE RELATIVELY SMALL SIZE OF THE MISSION IN ITSELF IS AN EFFECTIVE CONTROL. SINCE CONTACTS AMONG ALL ELEMENTS OF THE MISSION ARE FREQUENT, IT IS UNLIKELY THAT ANY USE OF NARCOTICS COULD GO UNNOTICED FOR VERY LONG.
GRAHAM

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Message Attributes

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